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# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, May 10. 1707.

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**I**N my Addressing all Parties to reconcile common Differences in Matters, to Charity and good Neighbourhood, or in my modern Phrase, to Union Principles; I cannot let slip a Paper presented to our Northern Brethren on this Head; tho' it may look here like a Digression.

*A Voice from the South: Or an Address from some Protestant Dissenters in England to the Kirk of Scotland.*

**B**rethren,  
**A**s Nothing has been more universally desir'd by us in this Nation, since the Revolution, than the happy Union now brought to pass; So nothing has been more surprizing to us, and to all that wish well to the Interest of the Protestant Religion, than the strange and unexpected Opposition

made in Scotland against the Treaty, and the yet remaining Fears and Jealousies which appear among you about it.

If Papists, Jacobites, Men of dividing Principles or Jarring Interests had appear'd against the Union, it had been nothing, but what we might have had Reason to expect; but that good Men, Men

of Religion, of Sobriety, Men that had suffer'd such severe things under the Tyranny of former Reigns, should not see in this their Day, the Things which belonged to the Civil and Religious Peace: This has indeed been Matter of Amazement to us, and all that wish you well, are under exceeding Concern about you.

This Paper is not design'd to make Reflections on things past, much less on Persons; the Design is sincere, the Method shall be friendly, and we hope you will take it with the same Temper it is offer'd, viz. A Civil Expostulation, and Neighbourly Advice: If it is mistaken, the Error wil lie at the Door of those, that by false Constructions, impose upon your Understandings.

The Union is now past, and all Articles between the Nations fully concluded, ratify'd, exchang'd, and recorded in both Kingdoms: And 'tis but a very few Days, that we shall, to the Envy and Disappointment of all the World, become one Nation, one Kingdom, one People, United in all our Civil Interests, and we hope, reconciled in a mutual Settlement, Security, and Establish'd Bounds of our Religious Interests.

There remains no more Struggle, no more Opposition, no Debate about the Union it self, and therefore this Paper shall say nothing to it, but as of a thing finish'd and done: The thing now before us all is, to endeavour on all sides to take the real Benefit of the Union, and not by Divisions, Distrust, and unnecessary Debates, to deprive our selves of the Advantages of it, and make it that Curse to us all, which groundless Fears have suggested, and which the open Enemies of both have desir'd.

What the present suggested Mischiefs of the Union are, how your Heads are fill'd with Distrusts of your Brethren, and with Apprehensions of Politick Designs against you, we shall not much enquire——, since the Business before us now is to heal, not to wound, to clear up Doubts, not increase Debates; and we believe the setting things before you in a clearer Light, will bring us all to the Blessed Temper of Love, Charity and Peace, which only can make the Union a Blessing to us.

We rather therefore choose to expo-  
late with you of things to come, than of  
things past, and to entreat you not to turn  
this Mercy into a Judgment by too un-  
thankful a Temper, a thing of which we  
have frequent Instances in the World.

And in order to this, we humbly desire  
you calmly to consider a few Particulars.

1. What have you to look back upon, and be thankful for, that GOD Almighty never put it into the Hearts of these Nations to unite, when Episcopacy was establish'd here among you.

And in this Head you might ob-  
serve, How easie it had been  
for the late King Charles II. or  
King James II. who had so Ar-  
bitrary a Command here, and such Tools to serve them, to have  
brought it to pass.

2. What Use they would long since  
have made of such an Addition  
of Power to have entirely suppress  
the Presbyterian Kirk, and human  
Probability consider'd, have for  
ever kept her down.

2. That had an Union been so formed  
under the Settlement of an Episcopal  
Church, there had never been a legal  
Door open'd in these Nations to have  
retrieved it, but by the Nature and  
Constitution of the Treaty, that Set-  
tlement had been as the Presbyterian  
Settlement now is, unalterable, and in-  
dissolvable, and in opposing it, both  
Nations had been bound to have op-  
posed and subdued you.

3. You are desired to look a little back  
into the former precarious Condition  
of your own Establishment, how liable  
to daily Invasions at Home, and from  
Abroad, how mated with, and some-  
times insulted by returning Prelacy,  
the Insolence and Numbers of Popish,  
Jacobite, or worse Enemies; how sub-  
ject to the wav'ring and very alterable  
Temper of a few Gentlemen, how  
weakly supported, and how ill quali-  
fied or circumstanced to obtain foreign  
Supports, but from a Country where  
the Presbyterian Kirk would find but  
little Assistance——, and not to enter  
too

too far into the Weakness of your Condition in that Case known well enough to your selves, we leave it under a general Note, and refer it as an Appeal to your own serious Reflection to determine about.

4. You are desired to look forward, and consider what you have to be thankful for, that the Presbyterian Settlement of Scotland has now received a Sanction or Recognition, even from that same Episcopal Power which alone could be suspected of a Willingness to pull her down. That you have the very Votes of the Bishops themselves to your Church Establishment, binding themselves and their Posterity, viz. The whole English Strength and Constitution, to uphold, support, maintain and defend you, next to Divine Protection, we cannot see how all the Policy of Man could devise for you a more substantial Security; and we do confess our selves under some Surprise, that any among you can complain for Want of Security, since the Church of England cannot now offer you the least Molestation, without flying in the Face of their own Constitution, unravelling their own Foundation, and dissolving a Treaty which we hope they will always have as much occasion to depend upon as any of us all.

Being thus Establish'd, we cannot think you will encourage the Murmurs and Discontents of these People, who first prophecying the evil Effects of this Union, seem themselves too willing to bring to pass their Predictions.

It is the full Perswasion of all your Brethren the Dissenters, That your Church is establish'd upon a lasting, an indissoluble, and an unalterable Foundation, and you cannot, without some Ignorance, and great Unkindness, suppose them of not desiring it should be so.

The Dissenters in England look upon themselves, to have but one Interest with you. And, as they have earnestly pray'd to GOD Almighty, to bring this

joyful Day to Lights, so they, with their utmost Clearfulness, are daily giving Thanks for the Blessing, as it is your Safety equally with their own; they rejoice, that Heaven has heard their Prayers; and have no Sorrow before them, save that which arises from the Mortification they have, to see some among you not so free to joyn with them, and whose Eyes are not open to the great Blessing of this Union equally with theirs.

They are sorry, that any amongst you should attempt to lessen that mutual Confidence, which they think so absolutely necessary between you and them: And as they, on their Part, have done nothing, to cause any Suspicions of their Conduct to be justly raised, with Respect to their Brethren in Scotland, so they cannot but hope, the Church of Scotland will give some general and publick Testimony, that those Distrusts and Suggestions are far from being the Sense of the whole Body.

It cannot but be evident to every Man that has the least Sense, upon his Mind, of the present Circumstances of both Kingdoms, both Civil and Religious, That nothing can contribute more to the making us all sensible of the prosperous Effects of this Treaty, than the mutual Confidence, Unity, and Brotherly Correspondence between all Sorts of Protestants in the whole Island, but especially between the Dissenters in England and the Kirk of Scotland, as being inseparably bound by the same Interest, and incapable to be hurt or overthrown a-funder, but to their mutual Injury, publick Weakening, and exposing them all to the Power of their Enemies: And those who are of another Opinion, are desired seriously to consider, who they are, that generally speaking, all over Britain, were desirous of this Union, and who against it, who are now pleas'd with it, and who shal at, and find Fault with it, and what are their known respective Principles and Practices; but this shall be spoken to in our next.